

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEGUCI 01203 011734Z

44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 AID-05 PC-01 /056 W

----- 059285

O 011713Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9604

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 1203

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MORG, HO

SUBJECT: NEW CHIEF OF ARMED FORCES

1. THE SUPERIOR DEFENSE COUNCIL, IN AN OFFICIAL BULLETIN DATED MARCH 31, AND ADDRESSED TO THE HONDURAN PEOPLE, STATES THAT ON THE EVENING OF MARCH 31 THE SUPERIOR DEFENSE COUNCIL AGREED TO NAME COL. JUAN ALBERTO MELGAR CASTRO COMMANDER OF THE HONDURAN ARMED FORCES, A POSITION FORMERLY HELD BY CHIEF OF STATE GEN. OSWALDO LOPEZ. THE BULLETIN STATES THAT THE CHANGE IS MADE "BECAUSE THE MULTIPLE CONCERNS OF HIS LOPEZ' ELEVATED POSITION PREVENT HIS ATTENDING PERSONALLY TO AFFAIRS RELATING TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ARMED FORCES."

2. THE BULLETIN FURTHER STATES THAT LOPEZ REMAINS AS CHIEF OF STATE AND AS THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE ARMED FORCES. THE BULLETIN WAS SIGNED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE SUPERIOR DEFENSE COUNCIL, LT. COL. CESAR ELVIR SIERRA.

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3. COMMENT: THIS DEVELOPMENT WAS CLOSELY HELD AND NO

PRIOR INFORMATION WAS AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY OFFICERS THROUGH USUAL CONTACTS. THE CHANGE LIKELY REFLECTS CONTINUING DISSATISFACTION AMONG MILITARY OFFICERS, PRIMARILY IN THE MIDDLE GRADES, WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ARMED FORCES AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF RECENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES IN THE ARMED FORCES. EMBASSY SOURCES HAVE INDICATED THAT LOPEZ ATTENDED THIS MEETING OF THE SUPERIOR DEFENSE COUNCIL AND ACQUIESCED IN ITS DECISION. FURTHER ANALYSIS WILL FOLLOW DISCUSSION WITH EMBASSY CONTACTS.
SANCHEZ

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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Subject: NEW CHIEF OF ARMED FORCES
TAGS: PINT, MORG, HO, (MELGAR CASTRO, JUAN ALBERTO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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